

A Contrast in Catholic Families.

There is undoubtedly a striking contrast between true Catholic families and those that are not truly Catholic. The very atmospheres of the two kinds are different, and it strikes you almost immediately. One smacks of the world and worldly things—worldly interests and worldly pursuits. The minds of the members of such a family seem to be running upon style and fashion and society; upon business and ambitious schemes of advancement; upon the glory of being recognized by the "upper crust"—too often, alas! upon alliance with Protestant families. You look for evidences of Catholicity. There are pictures in plenty, it may be, but distinctively Catholic pictures are conspicuous by their absence, except Madonnas, perhaps, which are now popular among Protestants. A glance at their tables and book shelves convinces you that the same may be said of Catholic books. Religion, Church, church societies, charity, sodalities, confraternities—all these are apparently unwelcome subjects; at least their hearts are not in them. Unfortunately, in such families the spirit of peace does not always reign. The spirit of selfishness too often causes a clashing of interests, and a spirit of disobedience produces discord and mars the peace and the happiness of the domestic circle.

How different is the truly Catholic family! The moment you enter the room you say: "This is certainly a Catholic household." The pictures, the works of art, the books, the current literature are Catholic. Not exclusively, indeed, but you will find there no literature of a doubtful character, however popular. A quiet, unobtrusive spirit of religion pervades the home circle, and evidently constitutes the great and prevailing interior motive of the actions of those who gather there. Their hearts are in their religion—they love it and it